MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
Established 1881

WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 64°F | 53°F Sunny
FRI: 68°F | 63°F Cloudy
SAT: 70°F | 46°F Rainy

Volume 142, Number 26

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Stratton Student Center to be renewed beginning sometime in early 2023

The student center will be shut down starting early May 2023 and throughout the summer

By Kristina Chen
PUBLISHER

Stratton Student Center renewal plans "are on the verge" of receiving approval and construction will begin early next year, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Community Involvement Gustavo Burkett wrote in a Nov. 9 email to occupants of the student center.

According to Burkett's email, "infrastructure and preparatory work" for the renewal will begin January 2023. Construction will take place for the Coffeehouse Lounge on the third floor, restrooms, and on mechanical/infrastructure systems in February and March.

After Campus Preview Weekend, April 13–16, the student center will be closed to the public. Student organization leaders and retail tenants will still be able to access the building in order to prepare spaces before the student center is fully shutdown in early May.

The student center will be fully shut down beginning in early May and throughout the summer for intensive construction. During this time, no public or tenant access will be allowed in the building.

In mid-August, tenants will be able to ramp up their activities in preparation for reopening the student center fully to the public. The student center will reopen fully in late August once students have returned to campus.

The student center renewal project team is providing opportunities for community members to learn more about the renovations and to learn how the team will "mitigate disruptions caused by the building's temporary closure," Burkett wrote. The team will also reach out to organizations who have reserved space during the construction period to discuss alternatives.

The goal of the student center renewal is to create a center for wellbeing on campus. The renovations are expected to improve design coherence of the building, update the building's infrastructure, include more flexible-use spaces, and provide a welcoming environment to all. A new Wellbeing Lab will also be added to the building, replacing the Coffeehouse Lounge.

A community information session and furniture fair will be held Nov. 17 from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Additionally, community members can reach the project team at *w20updates@mit.edu* or submit comments through an online form.

CADY BORONKAY—THE TECH

MIT students vote for the 2022 Midterm Elections within Kresge Auditorium and enjoy some cupcakes as a reward, Tuesday.

KATE LU—THE TECH

OrigaMIT Convention 2022 attendees view works on display at the convention's origami exhibition, Saturday.

IN SHORT

Nov. 11 is **Veterans Day.** No classes will take place.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for doctoral students to **submit application for spring term non-resident status.**

All students are required to **receive flu vaccines before Nov. 18** in order to access buildings and register for Spring 2023 and IAP.

Drop Date is Nov. 23.

Thanksgiving Break is Nov. 24–25.

Interested in **joining *The Tech*?** Email *join@tech.mit.edu.*

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu.*

MIT alumni able to receive IDs to access campus buildings using Tim Tickets app or Atlas center

Provost Barnhart and Executive VP and Treasurer Shor sent survey on campus access for community feedback on multiple public building entrance policy scenarios

By Kristina Chen
PUBLISHER

MIT alumni have been granted access to campus buildings via a digital or physical alumni MIT ID card. This new policy has been in place since the week of Oct. 17.

In addition to access to non-residential buildings on campus, the ID provides alumni free entry at the MIT Museum, along with one free guest, and privileges at the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center and MIT Libraries.

Alumni can receive their alumni ID digitally or physically. To receive a digital ID, alumni must login to the Tim Tickets mobile app with their Infinite Connection credentials. After logging in, alumni can activate their mobile ID, which serves as a digital ID card and can be used in conjunction with a mobile wallet app.

Alumni can also receive a physical ID card by printing one from self-service kiosks across campus by using a QR code located in the Tim Tickets app. Alumni that wish to receive a physical ID card without using the Tim Tickets app may contact the Atlas Service Center via email, phone, or in-person services to print a physical card.

For alumni that are current students, faculty, or staff and that have active Kerberos IDs, they may receive an alumni ID by activating their access in COVID Pass in the Atlas app.

Alumni that have active Kerberos IDs but are not current students or employees should contact the MIT Service Desk or specific building access approvers.

Provost Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 and Executive Vice President and Treasurer Glen Shor invited MIT community members to participate in a survey on campus access Oct. 4–14. The survey was meant to help MIT examine its policies with respect to building access and included questions soliciting feedback on community preferences and safety concerns for a variety of building access scenarios. The scenarios included 24/7 general public access to all non-residential buildings as well as general public access to all non-residential buildings during limited hours.

Building access policies for non-MIT ID holders remain in place, with most campus buildings accessible only via MIT ID. Visitors may only enter buildings when escorted by an MIT ID holder or when using Tim Tickets.

Additionally, nine buildings are open to the general public, including the first floors of the Ray and Maria Stata Center and Koch Institute, the List Visual Arts Center, the MIT Museum, the MIT Welcome Center, the Stratton Student Center, and the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center.

BLUEPRINT LABS
Improving the efficiency of kidney exchange. **SCIENCE, p. 5**

SUSTAINABILITY
The planet's future is also your future. **OPINION, p. 6**

CLIMATE CHANGE
Fossil fuel companies are misleading the public. **OPINION, p. 7**

FREE SPEECH
An illegitimate working group. **OPINION, p. 7**

LAB SAFETY
A near-death experience. **OPINION, p. 8**

ITALIAN FOOD
Carmelina's checks all the boxes. **ARTS, p. 4**

SECTIONS

WEATHER

Elephants in Egypt

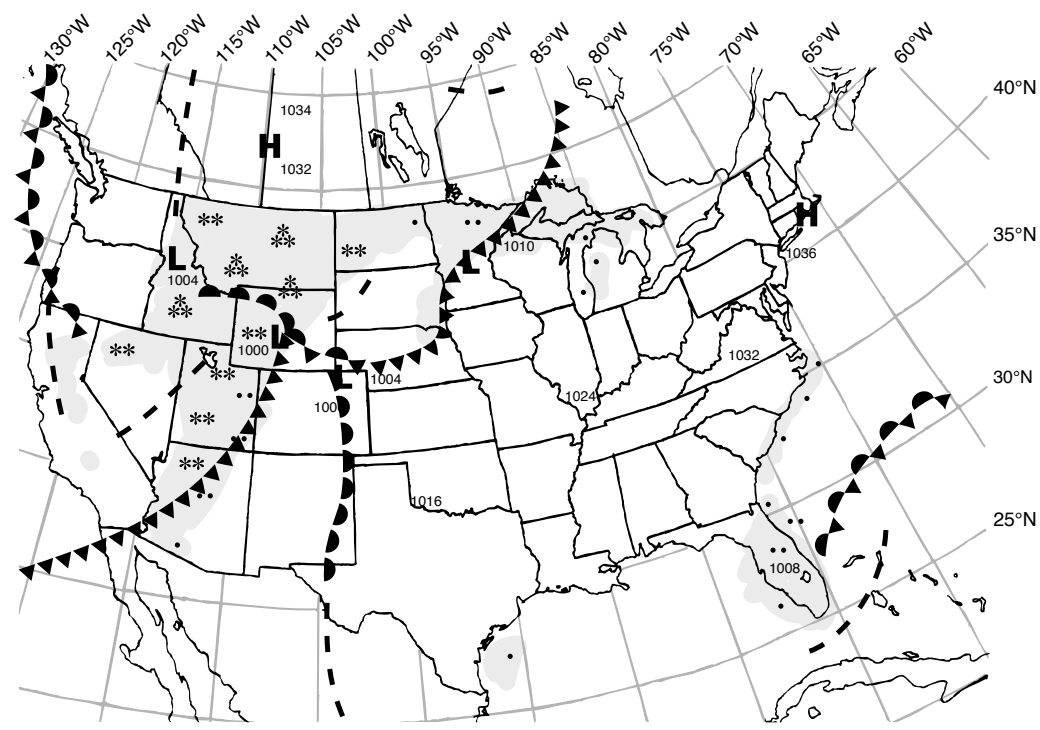
By Amena Khatun
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The Blood Moon sighting on Tuesday started the week with a beautiful natural spectacle that may have reset the abnormally warm period of last week. This week is expected to return to the cold and chill typical of November. Tropical storm Nicole has attained hurricane status and is expected to make landfall early Thursday, bringing heavy rain and strong winds to the northeast on the weekend. Not only that but the first blizzard of the season is also forecasted to hit the Northern Great Plains and Minnesota on Friday.

The elephant in the room causing these extremes in weather is climate change, and this week Egypt is hosting COP27. Global leaders are gathered to discuss ways to fund and achieve the ambitious goals set at COP26, such as global net zero by mid-century and 1.5°C targets for global warming. One of the goals is to get wealthy nations to pay "loss and damage" and compensate low- and middle-income countries with far fewer greenhouse gas emissions for their disproportionate share in the impact of climate change. Will they?

Extended Forecast

Today (Thursday morning): Sunny. High around 64°F (18°C). Southwest winds 10–15 mph.
Tonight (Thursday night): Partly cloudy. Low around 53°F (12°C). Southwest winds 9–13 mph.
Tomorrow: Cloudy with a chance of rain (30%). High around 68°F (20°C) and low around 63°F (17°C). South winds 7–10 mph
Saturday: Rainy (60%). High around 70°F (21°C) and low around 46°F (8°C). West winds 20–36 mph.
Sunday: Mostly cloudy. High around 51°F (11°C) and low around 36°F (2°C). West winds 6–10 mph.

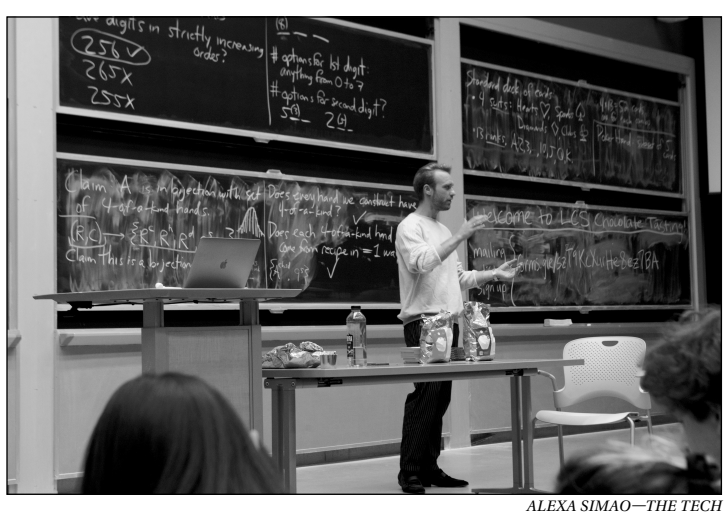


Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, November 10, 2022

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough		Snow	Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	*	•	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	**	••	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*
		Heavy	⁂	∴	

MAXWELL YUN—THE TECH

Students enjoy traditional Chinese food at Empire Garden Restaurant at the CSC banquet, Saturday.

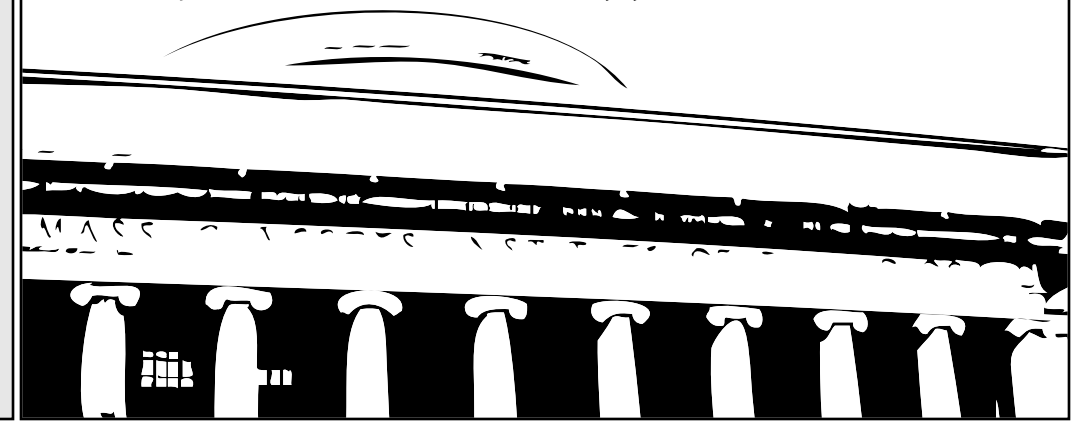


ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

Pastry chef Ted Steinebach gives a talk in 26-100 on chocolate and cacao - complete with savory samples - for the Laboratory for Chocolate Science, Tuesday.

MELISSA JIMENEZ CAMEJO—THE TECH

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble puts on their final showing of As You Like It this past weekend.



Cinnamon Raisin Swirl

Solution, page 8

	6				8	4		5
		8	4			6		
4			1		7		8	
	2		5			3		
	7						6	
		1			3		5	
	8		6		1			9
		9			2	8		
2		6	9				3	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Crispy Rice

Solution, page 8

	9		1					
2			8		5	1	3	
	8			2				6
		2			9		1	
	1	3				8	4	
	7		5			3		
4				5			7	
	5	9	2		7			3
					6		5	

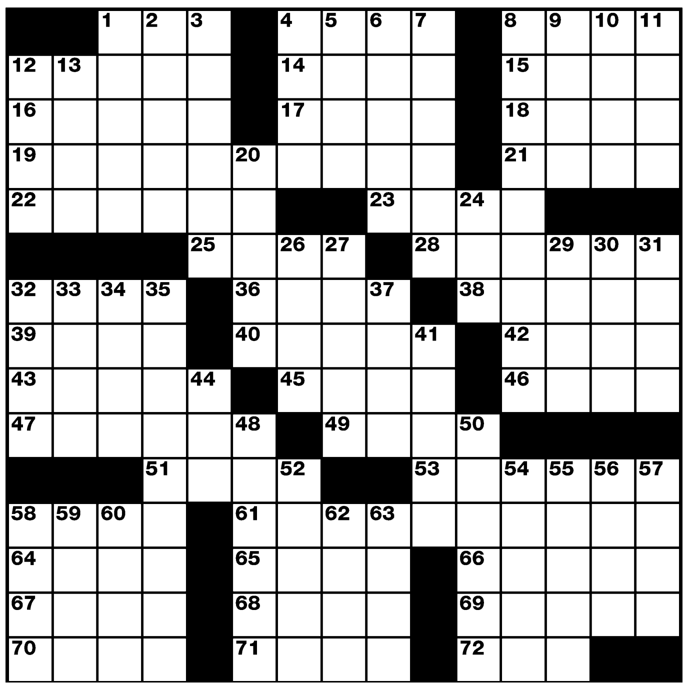
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Illuminating by Sally R. Stein

Solution, page 8

ACROSS
1 Meat in many omelets
4 __ vera (natural soother)
8 Trips around a running track
12 "Humpback" sea mammal
14 Washerful of laundry
15 Opera solo
16 Accountant's inspection
17 Prefix meaning "against"
18 Appear to be
19 Theater usher's illumination
21 Make simpler
22 Art drawn on skin
23 Fly high
25 Changed the color of
28 "Blue" award given at county fairs
32 __ yet (so far)
36 Part of a molecule
38 Walk out the door
39 Island near Oahu
40 Highway pathways
42 "That's too bad"
43 Opening comment, for short
45 Sugar cube
46 Become liquid
47 The Sahara, for example
49 Tips of slippers
51 Have on, as clothes
53 Pass by, as time
58 Bounce back, as a sound
61 Dining room's fancy overhead illumination
64 Indistinct image
65 Weighty book
66 Roadside eatery
67 "Upper" or "lower" bed
68 Notion
69 Nerdy types
70 Goes down, as the sun
71 Tenth of a dime
72 Conclude

DOWN
1 Did battle with
2 Roster of top celebrities
3 Systematic plan
4 Jai __ (fast-moving sport)
5 Lasting quite a while
6 Courtroom pledges
7 Newsroom executive
8 High-tech illumination for a speaker's pointer
9 Neighborhood
10 Fruity desserts with a crust
11 Identical
12 Be carried in the air, as an aroma
13 Luau dance
20 Faithful
24 Feel under the weather
26 "And others" abbreviation
27 Pastry with a hole
29 Bundle of hay
30 Shaped like a 0
31 Home for baby birds
32 In the heart of
33 Sensible
34 Ins and __ (important details)
35 Illumination in the sky on July 4th
37 Office note
41 Drive too fast
44 Rock containing metal
48 Strategic maneuver
50 Heavy hammer



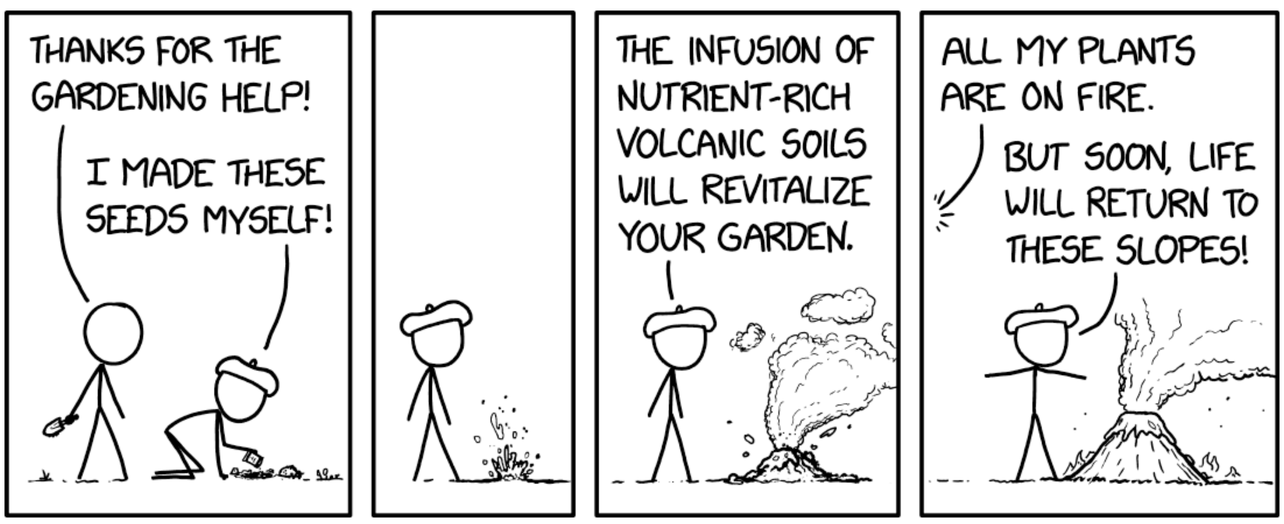
52 Providence, __ Island
54 Visitor from another planet
55 Longed (for)
56 Play hide-and-__
57 Makes a mistake
58 Recedes, as the tide
59 Hint in a whodunit
60 Search for prey
62 Last word of a prayer
63 Having no clutter

xkcd

A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language

by Randall Munroe

[2695] Soil



You might want to bring your frost-sensitive plants in from the patio. The high-level aerosols may result in short-term cooling across the entire backyard.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Carmelina's, (Carb)elina's: A pan of pasta, a pan of comfort

A gem of the North End

★★★★½

Carmelina's

Italian, $$

307 Hanover St, Boston, MA 02113

Open daily 12 p.m. — 10 p.m.

By Kelly Kim

Upon entering the North End, one immediately finds themself surrounded by countless Italian restaurants, smelling the steam from freshly-sauced pasta, cheesy baked meatballs, and free bread served alongside olive oil and balsamic for dipping (obviously the best part of any restaurant meal!).

Making the trip to the North End, one should be sure that they know which Italian restaurant is truly worth the inevitable large consumption of carbs, which, of course, must be followed by a massive cannoli or lobster tail from Mike's Pastry (sorry, Modern!). While the choices seem endless, only a few can truly be the best.

My experience of dining in the North End in search of quality, authentic, and, most importantly, yummy Italian food was brought to a level of deliciousness I once thought unachievable after my visit to Carmelina's.

As Yelp is one of my most used apps, it is not surprising that I found myself scrolling through the endless Italian restaurants in the North End in search of the few that have hundreds of reviews and received above four stars. My eyes soon caught sight of Carmelina's, which has amassed more than a thousand Yelp reviews and received an astonishing 4.5 stars. As a Yelp enthusiast, I knew the place had to be special. So what better time to go than after the closing of CPW? I went with my father, who was excited about not only the prospect of me soon being an official MIT student, but also the delicious Italian cuisine he was about to experience.

Snagging a reservation at Carmelina's is particularly tricky. They are booked for weeks at a time, especially on weekends and Fridays, with not much availability on weekdays, either. My biggest piece of advice is to make a reservation multiple weeks in advance, which you can only do on Yelp Reservations, turn on notifications to be told if a table opens up around your desired time, or arrive at "odd" times of the day. For example, you might be able to get a table right around when they open for lunch at noon or around 3–4 p.m. for a late lunch or early dinner. That way, the line for Mike's Pastry, which is conveniently right across the street from Carmelina's, will not be too long either.

After making a reservation about a month in advance, my dad and I excitedly sat down in Carmelina's small but charming space. Soon, the free bread was brought to our table: small rolls served alongside oil and balsamic for dipping.

We decided to try two contrasting pasta dishes: their carbonara, which they claim is made "the real way," and their Sunday gravy. Admittedly, what really sold me on Carmelina's was not just the high Yelp ratings, but the pictures of their pasta served in large gray frying pans just waiting to be devoured. So, not surprisingly, my heart leapt, my mouth watered, and I stared in awe as two huge steaming pans of pasta made their way to our table.

The Sunday gravy was bright red and adorned with generous chunks of short rib, sausage, and meatball, all on top of their homemade rigatoni and finished with a mound of whipped ricotta. The carbonara, my personal favorite Italian dish, glistened and was speckled with countless pieces of salty, fatty pancetta. As a former visiter of Rome and, hence, proudly familiar with what carbonara should be, I knew it was truly made "the real way," for there were no green peas or ham in sight. One bite of their Sunday gravy fills one up with feelings of warmth and homemade comfort, while the decadence and creaminess of the carbonara is sure to make one close their eyes and wonder how a pasta could be so indulgent yet balanced. The presentation, coupled with the generous portions and authentic flavors, made the Carmelina's experience well worth the Uber trip.

If you are looking for a place to carb load for a marathon, have a special-occasion dinner with friends and family, or simply enjoy authentic and delicious Italian food, Carmelina's small interior will always have enough room to satisfy your carb cravings, appetite, and empty stomach. With training for and running the Boston Marathon on my bucket list of things to do before graduating MIT, I intend for Carmelina's to be both a fueling station and post-race celebration spot. Maybe they will allow me to make a reservation a few years in advance?

KELLY KIM—THE TECH

The Sunday Gravy from Carmelina's is certainly a sight to behold; it includes generous chunks of tender meats, a flavorful red sauce, and finished with a dollop of whipped ricotta.

KELLY KIM—THE TECH

Carmelina's carbonara is truly made "the real way" and is perfectly creamy, rich, and generously speckled with salty pancetta.

LAB SPOTLIGHT

Data-driven policy for a better world

Blueprint Labs uses economic models to help form policy in healthcare, education, and the workforce

By Safiya Sankari

21 percent of kidneys are discarded in the U.S. annually [1]. Under the current kidney placement system, after an organ donor has passed away, kidney recipients are asked sequentially, according to a priority list, whether or not they will accept the kidney. Since kidney transplants are time sensitive, it is often difficult for transplant coordinators to contact recipients in time.

Developing strategies to lower this discard rate and improve the kidney placement rate is one of the many problems MIT's Blueprint Labs focuses on. Blueprint Labs is an interdisciplinary group that uses economics- and data-oriented approaches to tackle problems in healthcare, education, and workforce policy. In ongoing work, the lab is developing a machine learning tool to help predict whether a given kidney recipient will accept a transplant. This tool may be used in conjunction with the transplant coordinator's judgment to determine what to do with kidneys that have to be transplanted quickly. "This algorithm may be useful for lowering the kidney discard rate by expediting kidney placements in a more targeted manner," said Nikhil Agarwal, a professor of economics and co-director of the group.

Within the field of healthcare, the lab has also worked on addressing inefficiency in kidney exchange programs. In the realm of transplantation, kidney exchange occurs when a donor-recipient pair is not compatible but "swapping" with a different kidney donor pair would make a compatible form. More compatible swaps can be made through a chain of swaps; however, finding the most efficient chains is difficult without accurate models. Research from Blueprint Labs has identified modifications that could be made to current kidney exchange algorithms to improve the efficiency of kidney exchange. The modifications are currently being implemented in the Alliance for Paired Kidney Exchange — the second-largest kidney exchange platform in the nation.

As is evident from both of these projects, Blueprint Labs works on two major research areas within data and economics: market design and research design. Market design focuses on how to efficiently and equitably allocate scarce resources, similar to the kidney placement system, while research design focuses on understanding the impact policies or interventions will have, similar to the modifications developed for kidney exchange platforms.

Yet Blueprint Labs' research extends far beyond healthcare. Using market and research design, the lab also conducts research with applications in education and the workforce. The lab primarily uses economic and statistical models to tackle problems in these areas. In education, Blueprint Labs has studied the impact of school busing and lottery admissions. In workforce research, the group has studied discrimination among U.S. employers and how AI technology impacts workers. It is this combination of topical interests and its economic toolkit that makes Blueprint Labs distinct from other research groups. "Blueprint Labs is a unique place. I cannot think of any other economics lab where this type of work is being done," said Agarwal.

The group also works closely with policymakers and practitioners to implement the evidence-based solutions they develop. "While primarily a research lab, it is a great platform for research outreach," said Agarwal. Blueprint Labs hosts meetings between academics, practitioners, and policymakers to help improve policy and promote an open exchange of ideas. It is this collaboration with interdisciplinary groups that allows Blueprint Labs to have a more complete picture of its research areas beyond pure academia. "Evidence is part of the puzzle; it does not tell you everything that is necessary," said Agarwal. Facilitating these discussions between academics and practitioners is essential to making the models and recommendations developed by Blueprint Labs a reality. In line with its work in market and research design for education, the lab was also instrumental in organizing a summer school for international PhD students to collaboratively learn about market-design research.

While tackling problems across diverse fields and working to address issues in social policy, the glue that binds Blueprint Labs together is its economics and data background. Wielding this expertise, Blueprint Labs is working to approach policy issues from a unique, data-driven perspective. "There is no other place in the world that does this, in such a setting," Agarwal said.

[1] Li, M. T., King, K. L., Husain, S. A., Schold, J. D., & Mohan, S. (2021). Deceased donor kidneys utilization and discard rates during COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. *Kidney International Reports*, 6(9), 2463–2467. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ekir.2021.06.002

GUEST COLUMN

Cambridge's own Green New Deal

How Cambridge is working to build a more sustainable future

By Max Miller

As we barrel toward irreversible damage to our climate, it becomes more and more critical to lower emissions and make way for a clean energy future. Over the summer, Congress finally passed legislation, referred to as the "Inflation Reduction Act," in order to help spur electrification and renewable energy development. However, as Cambridge City Councilor Quinton Zondervan '95 said in an interview with MIT Divest, "in order for the money to be put to work, there need to be local frameworks." Indeed, Zondervan is proposing one such framework: the Cambridge Green New Deal (GND), legislation to build a more equitable and sustainable future in Cambridge.

> **Funding groups to solve problems elsewhere should be no excuse for not changing behavior here and now, and businesses must keep their promises — MIT is no exception.**

The main intent of the GND is to lower emissions from commercial buildings (including many owned and operated by MIT), which Zondervan says account for a majority of Cambridge's total emissions. In order to encourage commercial interests to lower their emissions, the GND will impose a fine of $254 for every ton of CO2 emitted by new non-residential buildings.

The revenue from these fines will partially fund a second part of the GND, the Green Jobs Ordinance, which will provide free green jobs training programs for lower-income residents of Cambridge. These jobs will include renewable energy development, building emissions reduction, electrification, and urban agriculture. In doing so, "we would use those funds to create economic opportunity for our low income and minority residents who are largely left out of the innovation economy," Zondervan said, adding, "It's a double injustice, in that all this pollution is happening in their neighborhoods and then they're not even getting the economic benefit of that."

Therefore, through the GND, Zondervan hopes to work toward eliminating both the economic and environmental injustices caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Despite the clear benefits of this proposal, some groups remain opposed. According to Zondervan, "The biggest barriers are the commercial interests, because they don't want to pay for their pollution ... And MIT is a big player in that interest group, so it's really important for the MIT students to be aware of the role that MIT is playing in that conversation."

For example, in a letter to Mayor Siddiqui, MIT and other institutions such as Harvard and the Cambridge City of Commerce argued for amendments allowing the use of carbon offsets to meet their net-zero commitment instead of actually reducing emissions. By buying carbon offsets, institutions can "lower" their carbon footprint by financing carbon capture or emissions reductions in other parts of the world.

While carbon offsets are possibly part of the solution to climate change, they are also a method of greenwashing: presented as environmentally friendly while still emitting literal tons of CO2. Carbon offsets allow institutions to continue to pollute locally while claiming to lower their emissions. Funding groups to solve problems elsewhere should be no excuse for not changing behavior here and now, and businesses must keep their promises — MIT is no exception.

So why should you, a busy MIT student, care? Firstly, the planet's future is your future, too. The world at large must soon cease releasing greenhouse gas into the atmosphere, and as part of that world, Cambridge must do its part to reduce its own emissions. Additionally, the GND is also a way to right the wrongs done to historically marginalized communities by giving them more opportunities in the green new economy.

As a Cambridge resident, your voice is important. Without it, the GND may not get enough votes to pass. The main way to show support would be to email the city council directly at *council@cambridgema.gov*. It doesn't have to be much; as Zondervan said, "Even just a one-paragraph email explaining why you support the Green New Deal for Cambridge would be helpful."

If you'd like to learn more about the GND, MIT Divest is holding a teach-in with Councillor Zondervan next week; find out details and RSVP via our form (*forms.gle/gnXzaz42iGMKg2CJ6*)! There is also a public hearing on November 22 about the GND, and we encourage you to sign up to comment over Zoom at the hearing if you'd like to make your thoughts heard. Further details are available on the Cambridge City Council website at tinyurl.com/gnd-hearing-11-22.

For more information on the Cambridge Green New Deal and future hearings, visit www.cambridgegnd.org.

Max Miller is a first-year undergraduate student and member of MIT Divest.

CORRECTIONS

In the previous issue of *The Tech*, solutions for puzzles in the fun pages were not put in. Here are the solution for last issue's puzzles: **November**, **Nutella**, **Trick or Treat**, **Nonetheless**, and **Next**, from top to bottom, left to right.

6	3	2	7	5	9	8	4	1
4	8	5	6	1	3	9	2	7
1	9	7	2	4	8	6	5	3
3	2	4	9	7	1	5	6	8
8	7	6	5	3	2	1	9	4
5	1	9	4	8	6	3	7	2
2	6	8	3	9	7	4	1	5
7	4	1	8	6	5	2	3	9
9	5	3	1	2	4	7	8	6

5	9	2	8	4	3	7	1	6
1	3	8	6	2	7	9	5	4
7	6	4	5	1	9	3	2	8
3	4	1	9	5	8	2	6	7
8	5	6	7	3	2	1	4	9
9	2	7	4	6	1	5	8	3
2	1	9	3	8	6	4	7	5
6	7	5	2	9	4	8	3	1
4	8	3	1	7	5	6	9	2

	W	E	A	R		L	O	T	S		M	I	S	T
F	O	R	T	E		A	V	O	W		A	R	E	A
I	N	A	W	E		M	E	G	A		G	O	W	N
N	A	S	A	L	S	P	R	A	Y		I	N	N	S
S	T	E	R	E	O				S	E	C			
				D	O	T	E	S		C	I	V	I	C
T	I	K	I		T	H	A	T		H	A	I	T	I
E	D	I	C	T		U	S	A		O	N	S	E	T
M	E	L	E	E		M	E	L	T		S	A	M	E
P	A	T	H	S		P	L	E	A	S				
			O	T	S				L	A	T	E	S	T
C	R	O	C		A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	E
L	E	A	K		L	U	A	U		R	A	T	O	N
A	N	T	E		A	M	I	D		E	R	E	C	T
N	O	S	Y		D	A	R	E		D	A	R	K	

9	2	8	3	1	6	5	7	4
3	7	1	5	2	4	6	9	8
5	6	4	9	7	8	3	2	1
6	4	5	8	3	7	2	1	9
1	8	3	4	9	2	7	5	6
7	9	2	1	6	5	4	8	3
8	3	6	7	5	9	1	4	2
4	1	7	2	8	3	9	6	5
2	5	9	6	4	1	8	3	7

2	1	4	7	8	5	9	6	3
6	9	3	4	2	1	7	8	5
8	5	7	3	6	9	2	4	1
7	6	1	5	3	8	4	9	2
5	4	2	9	1	7	8	3	6
3	8	9	6	4	2	1	5	7
4	3	8	2	7	6	5	1	9
1	7	5	8	9	3	6	2	4
9	2	6	1	5	4	3	7	8

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Publisher Kristina Chen, Editor in Chief Wenbo Wu, Managing Editor William Xu, Executive Editor Chloe McCreery, and the opinion editor, a position that is currently vacant.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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GUEST COLUMN

Freedom of expression for all, minus students

Like an Epstein thank you letter, I regret that the Freedom of Expression report bears my name as the undergraduate partner

By David Spicer

Last fall, President Reif charged the provost, chancellor, and chair of the faculty to examine the state of freedom of expression on campus "on behalf of the community." The process that led to the Freedom of Expression statement and report grossly failed President Reif's call to "ensure that different points of view ... are allowed to be heard and debated on our campus" — words he wrote in his letter introducing the statement and report to the MIT community. The last time I checked, students are a core part of "our campus." Where are the students in the creation of the Freedom of Expression statement and report?

The composition of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Free Expression should upset students. First, the committee included just two students, one undergraduate student — me — and one graduate student. These students were not "members" of the committee. Instead, students were relegated to the subordinate position of "partner" and did not enjoy the same rights and privileges as actual members. Delegating students to a lower class via a partner designation and faculty and administration to a higher class via a member designation violates the opportunity for students' "points of view ... to be heard and debated on our campus." As a so-called partner, I was given a less than 24-hour notice of the statement and report going public, which diminished any opportunity to meaningfully have the student point of view "heard and debated." Manufacturing who wields power and who holds a megaphone contaminates and voids any outputs of this group. Are students being asked to accept the results of an illegitimate working group? I hope not.

Freedom of expression must include having students at parity with other community members.

Are students to believe that this group speaks of freedom of expression when this very group's foundation is void of freedom of expression in its committee composition? No. If a working group does not allow freedom of expression in its composition, are students to believe any outputs of such a group are fair or legitimate? No.

More work and discussion is imperative to understand the implications of free speech in different scenarios, taking into account the time, place, and manner of the speech.

Like President Reif after signing an Epstein thank you letter, I too regret that the Freedom of Expression report bears my name as an undergraduate partner. As a partner, I was directed to not engage students and to synthesize only limited undergraduate sentiments drawn from the Carlson Lecture. As an undergraduate partner to the working group and as the Undergraduate Association (UA) President, I believe that the absence of fair, meaningful inclusion of students in the creation of the report precludes any student agreeance to the statement and report that is supposedly "on behalf of the community." I worry that my myopic inclusion as the undergraduate partner allows the working group to wrongly benefit from the UA's credibility amongst undergraduates and to advertise student buy-in when in fact students were deprived of meaningful engagement and representation. I voice my stark dissent. There cannot be a Freedom of Expression statement and report without freedom of expression. Freedom of expression must include having students at parity with other community members.

Setting aside my procedural grievances, I am worried about the content of the Freedom of Expression report.

First, the Freedom of Expression report fails to properly consider, let alone assign weight to, the many places speech can occur. Should speech look different in an academic versus residential setting, considering the primary purposes of such places differ? Residential settings serve as students' ultimate retreat. Unlike speech in the classroom or on the campus grounds where students can stay or exit as they see fit, speech in residential settings inherently has a captive audience. I would not expect it to be acceptable to barge into President Reif's Gray House anytime I wish to voice my speech, nor should students be expected to have their homes violated in the same manner. More work and discussion is imperative to understand the implications of free speech in different scenarios, taking into account the time, place, and manner of the speech.

Second, the Freedom of Expression report fails to safeguard students against the harms of power differentials. The report believes "empowering our students to be confident advocates who refuse to be silenced" is the appropriate response to speech that chills or silences the voices of marginalized minority groups. I will offer one personal example to illustrate my argument. In spring 2022, I took a required Course 17 class where my teaching assistant said hurtful things to my classmates and me. For example, when I spoke about my queer identity, said TA berated me, asking,"What makes you a minority?" Never in my Latinx, immigrant, gender-queer, gay, disabled, low-income life would I imagine having to defend myself against such an invalidating question. I did not feel comfortable with the remarks of this TA, so I reported the behavior to my professor and department chair and filed a report through the Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response Office (IDHR). The result? My department chair never followed up on the matter. My professor leaked the contents of my email to the TA without my consent. IDHR told me they could not take action on the case. As a student, I could not continue with the class. What protections would I, as a student, have in a scenario like this? Is this the new hallmark of a MIT education?

Real or not, I had a sincerely held perception that I was not and could not be treated fairly in this class. I use this example to show that this Freedom of Expression report would allow my TA to say such harmful comments and to create a hostile academic environment and fails to protect a student like me from the harms of power differentials. While I would like to consider myself an okay exemplar of a "confident advocate," I did not achieve an acceptable outcome to my situation. I can only imagine how students without my level of comfort in advocating for myself would fare in such a situation. A belief that students should simply advocate in the face of such situations negligently fails to wrestle with the unsettling realities behind power differentials. Such a belief fails students.

Third, the Freedom of Expression report is too long. How accessible is a 56-page report? Really? While tremendous opportunities have been provided to faculty to engage with the report, I have not seen the same opportunities afforded to students. I find this worrisome since sections of the report that are potentially highly impactful to students are buried to a point where they fail to rise to the surface for discussion and debate. Once again, I see an instance where students are not being meaningfully engaged.

The Freedom of Expression report fails to safeguard students against the harms of power differentials.

"To give free expression prominence not only in our policies but also in the life of the Institute means making it an integral part of our educational mission." This line in the report signals an intent to spread the ideas of the Freedom of Expression report all throughout the Institute. Such an intent should be worrisome for students because of the procedural and content grievances that I have outlined. To students, let me be clear: be aware, be alarmed, and be resistant to a statement that does not and cannot speak "on behalf of the community" without us. A community without students is not the MIT community.

David Spicer is a fourth-year undergraduate student in the Department of Political Science. He serves as President of the Undergraduate Association and was the sole undergraduate partner to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Free Expression.

GUEST COLUMN

Fossil fuel companies fall short on climate pledges

Federal hearings reveal that the fossil fuel industry is still misleading the public about its role in climate change

By Lauren Higgins

Hearings held by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform in September reveal the failures of fossil fuel companies to live up to their pledges on reducing their environmental impact — and why we still have work to do.

These contradictions should come as no surprise, as they continue a long tradition of Big Oil companies lying to the public about their role in worsening the climate crisis.

The hearings follow a year-long investigation by the Committee regarding the role of the fossil fuel industry in driving climate change. Before the hearings, the Committee released a memo documenting internal emails and guidance from several Big Oil companies — including BP, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and Shell — that demonstrate their campaign to mislead the public while they fall short of reaching their climate goals.

Among the discoveries revealed in the memo, these companies made it clear that they are "devoted to a long-term fossil fuel future" and instructed employees to use intentionally misleading language when broaching the topic of climate change. For example, "Exxon and Chevron sought to water down statements by the industry-led Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) to 'remove language that potentially commits members to enhanced climate-related governance, strategy, risk management, and performance metrics and targets'" in an apparent effort to avoid binding themselves to any climate commitments, despite each publicly stating the opposite. Additionally, internal messaging guidance from Shell "calls on employees to emphasize that net-zero emissions is 'a collective ambition for the world' rather than a 'Shell goal or target,'" directly contradicting their own publicized climate target. These contradictions should come as no surprise, as they continue a long tradition of Big Oil companies lying to the public about their role in worsening the climate crisis.

"My Committee's investigation leaves no doubt that, in the words of one company official, Big Oil is 'gaslighting' the public," said Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, the Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. "These companies claim they are part of the solution to climate change, but internal documents reveal that they are continuing with business as usual."

Following the investigation and the release of the memo, the Committee held a hearing to examine the adequacy of the companies' climate pledges and to hear testimony from survivors of climate change-induced severe weather events.

Testimony from Raya Salter, Esq., founder and executive director of the Energy Justice Law and Policy Center and member of the New York State Climate Action Council, emphasizes the failure of fossil fuel companies to hold true to their climate pledges. Salter states that "the fossil fuel company commitments are just frankly disingenuous. The fossil fuel lobby combats climate action on every single level — global, national, state, and regional." Her statement supports the findings revealed in the memo, reinforcing the fact that Big Oil companies are lying about their climate commitments and failing to act on the issue of climate change.

While the effects of climate change grow worse each year, fossil fuel companies continue to profit off of the crisis that they helped create.

The hearing also sought to emphasize that marginalized communities throughout the U.S. — particularly low-income communities and communities of color — bear the brunt of climate change and feel the strongest effects of the inaction of the fossil fuel industry. At the hearing, Dr. Isabella M. Weber, Assistant Professor of Economics at University of Massachusetts Amherst, stated, "Low-income households are clearly the ones that are hit hardest by the energy price explosion. They are the ones that have least means to weatherize their homes. Black and Brown communities face, on top of this, discrimination in the housing market, which means that they typically end up living in homes that are less well insulated or less energy efficient." Another witness, Jasmin Sanchez, a survivor of Hurricane Sandy and public housing resident, stated, "Climate justice is a racial justice issue. Sandy showed the inequities in our city. If you didn't have a car, you couldn't leave. If you didn't have financial means, you couldn't relocate ... I, along with many of my neighbors, were in survival mode." Sanchez's testimony demonstrates that the effects of climate change aren't something far off in the distance — they are happening right here, right now, to real people. And the fossil fuel industry is intentionally making the climate crisis worse and harming the communities most at risk.

These recent hearings made clear that the fossil fuel industry has not only fallen short of its climate pledges but has also spread misinformation and misled the public on its actions while continuing to contribute to the climate crisis and perpetuate violence against marginalized communities. Despite this, Big Oil companies continue to post record-breaking profits, with BP, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Shell, and TotalEnergies producing a combined profit of $51 billion in the second quarter of 2022. While the effects of climate change grow worse each year, fossil fuel companies continue to profit off of the crisis that they helped create.

So, why should we as MIT students care? The answer is simple: the MIT Corporation's refusal to divest from the fossil fuel industry means that as these companies profit off of the climate crisis, so does MIT. If MIT wants to uphold its values and take responsibility for tackling the climate crisis, it must divest from the fossil fuel industry.

Lauren Higgins is a first-year undergraduate student and a member of MIT Divest.

GUEST COLUMN

MIT's lack of safety provisions nearly left me dead. But graduate workers are not disposable!

We demand health and safety protections in our union contract now!

By Lucas Baston

As a graduate worker in Chemical Engineering, I work on the exciting process of designing and synthesizing new zeolite catalysts to improve sustainable plastic processing. Coming from an undergraduate lab that worked with zeolites, I thought I knew what to expect when I first started out. However, over the years at MIT working with countless chemical and physical hazards in my lab, I have come to learn first hand how MIT systematically neglects graduate worker health and safety. This all came to a head when I found myself in an ambulance after a chemical exposure, unsure if I would live or die.

> **At MIT Medical, it was clear they were not at all equipped to treat me and didn't know what to do.**

When I began my PhD project on zeolite synthesis, I knew that I would have to use hydrofluoric acid (HF), since it's the only chemical able to clean zeolite residue — basically glass — out of our synthesis reactor liners. HF is notoriously dangerous. It goes straight through skin and is volatile enough to be inhaled. HF seeks out and attacks calcium sources in the body and can dissolve bones, cause necrosis, and stop the heart. To make matters worse, symptoms from an HF exposure can take hours to appear, at which point it may be too late for treatment.

On day one of my research, I was shocked to learn that MIT refuses to provide our lab with basic protections for working with HF, despite years of graduate workers, our PI, and our excellent environmental health and safety (EHS) coordinator doing everything they could to request adequate provisions. Rather than having access to a dedicated HF hood, which is standard practice — including in my undergraduate lab, — workers in my lab are forced to use all acids in a single hood, which leads to dangerous overcrowding, risk of spills, and unnecessary HF exposure. This single hood is also located in a high-traffic lab, meaning that everyone working in the space is at risk when anyone works with HF. Our hood space is so cramped and facilities so lacking that we don't even have room to keep the hazardous waste solution from HF in a vented space. These dangerous conditions ultimately led to the incident that could have left me dead.

One of the weekly procedures in my work involves cleaning the zeolite synthesis liners in a big bath of HF solution inside the aforementioned cramped fume hood. Then, we typically neutralize the HF acid in a base bath inside the fume hood. Periodically, we have to empty the base bath to replenish the potassium hydroxide base that gets depleted over time as it reacts with the HF.

On the day of the incident, following protocol and believing it was just dilute potassium hydroxide, I removed the base bath from the hood while dressed in standard lab PPE — without the extra layers of HF protective gear. While dumping the bath into the waste carboy, however, I noticed clouds of vapor forming. Because it was my first time emptying the bath, I thought this could be a normal occurrence. However, when I tested the pH, I found it was acidic, implying that the "base bath" had in fact become a big tub of HF solution! I was dealing with a potentially deadly exposure to HF outside of the fume hood.

I immediately evacuated the lab and called MIT EHS for assistance. EHS helped me confirm that the HF was properly contained but didn't ask or advise about my safety. Only after I asked did EHS instruct me to call MIT Medical to see if I should go in for urgent care for HF exposure. I was surprised. My past training and other members of my lab told me to go directly to urgent care or even call an ambulance. Nonetheless, I followed the EHS instructions.

At MIT Medical, it was clear they were not at all equipped to treat me and didn't know what to do. They finally decided to call an ambulance nearly three hours after my initial exposure. At the hospital, I was immediately seen by a doctor for monitoring and several tests. Chillingly, I was informed that any symptoms of HF exposure would have shown within 2 hours, well before I was sent to the ER. In other words, had symptoms started, MIT's unprepared and delayed response could have left me dead.

> **At each point in this terrifying, frustrating, and near-death experience with HF, I was let down by MIT's dangerously deficient safety provisions.**

I am alive today *only* because I was extremely lucky that the concentration of HF wasn't higher.

Just a few days later, I started getting calls from the hospital and ambulance about paying for the bill. I had to call MIT Occupational Health and Safety and was ultimately promised that the costs would be covered under workers' compensation. Yet, the collectors kept sending bills for months demanding payment. When I reached out again to MIT, I was bounced around between multiple people before being referred to an external adjuster. As I write this over four months after the exposure, I have received no confirmation or closure from MIT and can only assume it's been taken care of.

At each point in this terrifying, frustrating, and near-death experience with HF, I was let down by MIT's dangerously deficient safety provisions.

I want to be very clear: My PI and our EHS coordinator have done everything they can. Our EHS coordinator goes above and beyond to keep us as safe as possible given the constraints of what limited resources MIT provides to EHS. The problem is not with EHS, but rather with MIT systematically refusing to adequately fund and support EHS in carrying out its safety work. As it stands, EHS doesn't have the power or resources to install a fume hood.

MIT is cutting corners on our health and wellbeing!

Indeed, my incident is not isolated but reflects a systematic failure by MIT to provide even basic workplace safety measures — despite the fact that grad workers work with cancer-causing and reproductive toxins, lethal and flammable chemicals, and biological hazards every single day. In the past four months within the Chemical Engineering department alone, I am one of four graduate workers who has been hospitalized from chemical exposure. MIT has not yet hired a permanent EHS coordinator for the Chemistry department after the previous one left, leaving the safety of 300 graduate workers — as well as undergraduates and postdocs — up to a precarious system of temporary EHS workers doing their best to advise, support, and provide basic safety measures without any degree of stability. Another graduate worker, hospitalized after a potentially life-threatening chemical exposure during their assigned laboratory work, was forced by MIT to use their personal insurance to cover the expenses because they had earned a fellowship and MIT thus classified the injury as personal rather than work-related — leaving the grad worker with eight months of stressful calls with debt collectors. MIT simply chooses not to provide the funding, staff, or equipment to EHS to implement basic safety precautions, and it leaves graduate workers on their own when they're hurt on the job. MIT is cutting corners on our health and wellbeing!

But graduate workers are not disposable!

But graduate workers are not disposable! My incident with HF exposure has strengthened my conviction that we urgently need our union contract provisions in order to improve and codify workplace safety. If we had our proposed contract provisions, my lab's repeated request for additional acid hoods would have been enforceably addressed with the provision that we are guaranteed a safe work environment and facilities. With our contract proposal requiring MIT to develop and train EHS and Medical in chemical emergency response, I would have gotten emergency advice that wouldn't have risked killing me. With our proposal to empower EHS with appropriate staffing, equipment, and training, we could establish the basis for a truly proactive approach to preventing chemical exposure incidents in the first place. In my case, experts could have evaluated the safety of our lab procedure and implemented changes to better deal with HF waste disposal. And with guaranteed workers' compensation in a contract and a grievance procedure, I would have had a clear way to follow-up with EHS about getting bills paid.

Our union is proposing basic, common sense demands that will preempt avoidable safety incidents, keep researchers safe, and enable MIT researchers to safely carry out cutting edge research without being forced to put our lives on the line. And yet, the MIT administration is dragging its feet on coming to agreement on these basic proposals. MIT has no excuse to force us to conduct research in such unsafe conditions, and we demand that MIT affirm its commitment to graduate worker safety by agreeing to our health and safety contract proposals.

As graduate workers, we are united behind our contract demands to guarantee us equipment, supplies, facilities, and experts that ensure we have a safe workspace and assist our EHS coordinators in doing their jobs. Join us for our *We are not disposable!* town hall about health and safety on Tuesday, November 15, at 5:30 p.m. in 66-110, and join our Contract Action Team to help win our contract. Together, we can win the protections we deserve!

Lucas Baston is a third-year PhD candidate in Chemical Engineering and part of the MIT Graduate Student Union Contract Action Team.

Solution to Cinnamon
from page 3

9	6	7	3	2	8	4	1	5
1	3	8	4	5	9	6	7	2
4	5	2	1	6	7	9	8	3
8	2	4	5	1	6	3	9	7
3	7	5	2	9	4	1	6	8
6	9	1	8	7	3	2	5	4
7	8	3	6	4	1	5	2	9
5	1	9	7	3	2	8	4	6
2	4	6	9	8	5	7	3	1

Solution to Crispy Rice
from page 3

3	9	5	1	6	4	7	8	2
2	6	7	8	9	5	1	3	4
1	8	4	7	2	3	5	9	6
5	4	2	3	8	9	6	1	7
9	1	3	6	7	2	8	4	5
6	7	8	5	4	1	3	2	9
4	3	6	9	5	8	2	7	1
8	5	9	2	1	7	4	6	3
7	2	1	4	3	6	9	5	8

Solution to Illuminating
from page 3

	H	A	M		A	L	O	E		L A P S
W	H	A	L	E		L	O	A	D	A R I A
A	U	D	I	T		A	N	T	I	S E E M
F	L	A	S	H	L	I	G	H	T	E A S E
T	A	T	T	O	O			S	O	A R
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A	S	O	F		A	T	O	M		L E A V E
M	A	U	I		L	A	N	E	S	A L A S
I	N	T	R	O		L	U	M	P	M E L T
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B	L	U	R		T	O	M	E		D I N E R
B	U	N	K		I	D	E	A		G E E K S
S	E	T	S		C	E	N	T		E N D